

# **IMPACT REPORT**

**January 2021 - December 2023**

Supporting, informing and advocating for the  
digital inclusion of refugees in the UK.

# A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER & DIRECTOR



It feels like only yesterday that I muddled my way through my first laptop refurbishment in the depths of lockdown - a battery replacement of my mum's dusty old Macbook Air (2014) which I delivered to a young refugee who was applying for Medicine at Kings.

Since then a community of people has since gathered around me - people who are big-hearted, generous, motivated and cognizant of one simple fact: there are simple solutions to the problem of digital exclusion.

I speak on that community's behalf - the journey has been stimulating, fun, purposeful, frustrating, demanding, and rewarding. That has been the impact for those of us on the ground who are using our time and skills to convert discarded tech into future-defining tools for those on the margins of society.

In the pages that follow you can read about the impact these efforts have had on those seeking sanctuary in the UK. Some have used their new devices to submit university assignments, apply for meaningful employment and share important documents with their lawyers. Others have taken on remote volunteer roles while they wait for months in the asylum system. Some have built refugee charities with their new devices, others have used it to watch Johnny English.

Digital inclusion isn't rocket science but its impact can be completely life-changing. The only way to truly understand the personal impact that a laptop has for a particular individual is to throw yours in the bin.

I hope you enjoy reading this report as much as we enjoyed compiling it, and I invite you to join us on our mission, with hope and without delay.

# OUR MISSION & VISION



**Screen Share's mission is to support, inform, and advocate for the digital inclusion of refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK.**

There are more refugees in the world than ever before, including in the UK. We provide laptops, data packs and digital skills training. Digitally including refugees is not only the right thing to do - everyone has the right to be connected and free from social isolation - but it's also part of the answer to the difficult policy questions asked by the global increase in the movement of people.

The provision of tech and tech skills is different to the provision of food or shelter. It is a tool for the recipient to use to build their own future on their terms. It is vital in the modern day.

***"My laptop is a gift that has not stopped giving in a time of dire need where 90% of my work requires a laptop. Thank you so much Screen Share."***

- Screen Share Owner, refugee and LGBTQ+ Activist, November 2023



# OVERVIEW OF IMPACT



**637**

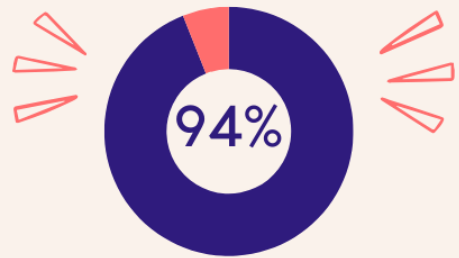
LAPTOPS SOURCED,  
REFURBISHED AND  
DELIVERED

**59**

VOLUNTEERS HAVE  
BEEN WELCOMED  
ONTO THE TEAM



1847KG OF  
E-WASTE SAVED



OF RECIPIENTS SAID  
IT HAS IMPROVED  
THEIR WELLBEING

**42**

CITIES ACROSS THE  
UK HAVE SCREEN  
SHARE LAPTOPS



IN OCTOBER 2023  
WE WERE GRANTED  
CHARITY STATUS



# WHAT IS THE NEED?

The digital divide disproportionately affects refugees and asylum seekers and does so with greater consequences when it does. The refugee community in the UK faces a pronounced digital access discrepancy due to financial constraints, with individuals receiving only £5.80 a day and limited employment opportunities, leading to isolation and mental health challenges.

The gift of a laptop is a life-changing tool. Our intervention provides internet-enabled devices as a lifeline, offering pathways to education, language acquisition, skills training, and renewed purpose. By extending access to digital resources, we empower refugees to engage fully in society, fostering successful integration and future contributions as active citizens. This access not only enhances well-being and happiness but also opens doors to increased health, income, and the potential for a brighter future within the UK community.





# DIGITAL ACCESS PROJECT



Screen Share's core programme from January 2021 to the present day has been the Digital Access Project. In this project, Screen Share sources and receives laptops from incredibly generous donor partners and individuals, refurbishes them using skilled tech volunteers, and redistributes them to refugees and people in the asylum system as a permanent gift at no cost. We do this predominantly through partner organisations but when we have extra capacity, we open up to other organisations within the sector as well as self-referrals.

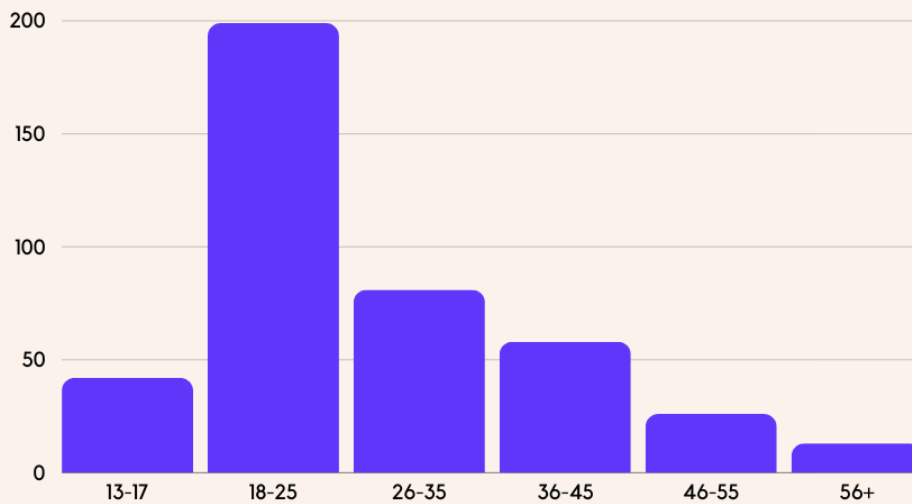
Our team is comprised of 2 part time members of staff, our Director and our Digital Access Project Coordinator, and over 30 active volunteers. Our tech team, comms team and runners are made entirely of volunteers and perfectly demonstrate the power of volunteer time. Our volunteers spread Screen Share's mission, prepare high quality tech, and hand deliver laptops to their new owners.



# WHO DO WE WORK WITH?



Screen Share supports anyone in the UK who has experience of forced migration. This includes refugees, people seeking asylum, those issued with humanitarian protection visas and stateless individuals. Originally founded to address the need among young people in London of this demographic, we have since expanded in response to the extensive need across a broad age range around the UK.



**SINCE 2021 SCREEN SHARE HAS SUPPORTED PEOPLE FROM 54 COUNTRIES...**



Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Sudan, El Salvador, Eritrea, Libya, Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Turkey, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Morocco, Guinea, Iran, Yemen, Nigeria, Ukraine, Albania, Uganda, Russia, Mauritius, India, Somalia, Palestine, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Nicaragua, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Azerbaijan, Ghana, Burundi, Kyrgyzstan, Niger, North Korea, Georgia, China, Philippines, Botswana, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Tunisia, Somalia, Algeria, Chad, Namibia, Gambia, South Africa, Liberia, Cameroon, Sierra Leone & Malawi





# WHERE DO WE WORK?



Screen Share is the only refugee digital inclusion organisation which supports sanctuary seekers across the whole of the UK. We started in London and many of our volunteers are based in the capital, but in 2023 only 35% of laptops went to people based in London.



LAPTOPS IN 42 DIFFERENT CITIES

637 LAPTOPS ACROSS THE UK

27 LONDON BOROUGHS



# THE IMPACT

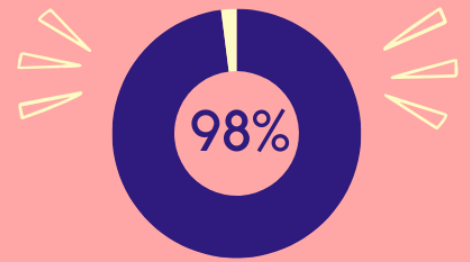


Laptops are used for a variety of reasons. Whilst most are used for education, they have also played a pivotal role in exploring employment and volunteering opportunities, as well contributing to people's overall wellbeing.

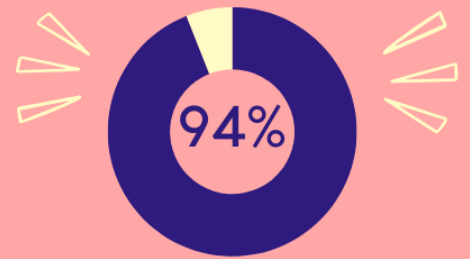


## The top 3 uses of Screen Share laptops

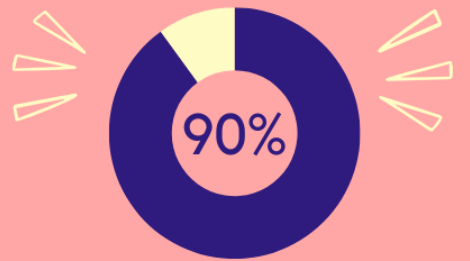
Some of our highlights have been providing 16 students on University of Leicester's RefugEAP programme, which teaches refugee students academic English. We have also provided laptops to Safe Passage Young Leaders, who campaign to for change in policies which affect refugees. One was even used to build Bablyon Project, a Community Interest Company which runs creative activities by and for young people from refugee, asylum seeking and migrant backgrounds. We have also enjoyed building partnerships with local councils and large refugee charities where we have delivered a large number of devices at short notice.



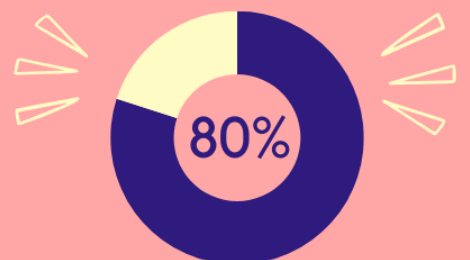
OF RECIPIENTS SAID IT HAS HELPED THEM IN EDUCATION



OF RECIPIENTS SAID IT HAS IMPROVED THEIR WELLBEING



OF RECIPIENTS FELT MORE CONFIDENT USING TECHNOLOGY



OF RECIPIENTS SAID IT HAS HELPED THEM INTEGRATE IN THE UK

*"I got an email from University of Warwick few months ago, and I needed to write an essay in order for me to get admitted to University. my laptop keyboard wasn't working and I had only few days till deadline, I didn't know what to do, I thought I wouldn't be able to get to University just because I didn't have access to working computer. By help of REUK I got referral to screen share and they sent me a working laptop in two days. since then because screen share I was able to write my essay and submit it in time.*

*Not only I got admission to University of Warwick, I got Sanctuary scholarship as well, all this was made easier for me because I had access to laptop thanks to Screen share. I am hoping to use the same laptop which was given to me by screen share and graduate from University.*

*As a Asylum Seeker I faced A lot of challenges trying to get access to higher education, having no access to internet and working computer made everything difficult for me. I think everyone deserve to have access to higher education and little thing such as having access to a simple computer can make tremendous difference in Asylum Seekers life. I was able to finish my assay just in time, but what if I couldn't get access to computer? I would have lost my chance to join University this year, by simply not having access to working computer it even sound unfair and sad that by just having access to working computer a life can be changed."*

# THE IMPACT

screen  
share



*"Well, the laptop has help me a lot with my study and also with my projects it has completely game changer. My plan to continue my study and also to do some volunteering on it. There no need change in your work everything is good."*

- Azmat, January 2022



*"Thank you for Screen Share, they got me a laptop, and now I can learn on internet and apply for work much easier. They made my day."*

-Alaa, June 2021



*"I just want to thank you to support and encourage refugees. I've got this laptop thanks to you and I'm so grateful. I can't even explain how I feel. All I can say, you've given me a perfect start in my course!"*

-Sule, February 2022

# THE IMPACT

screen  
share

"I have studied mechanical engineering in my country and have a degree, but due to the lack of materials and machines I didn't have the experience of doing things that I have learnt and that always hurts me. I also studied CISCO computer basics so I was much closer to technology and machines. Now you guys have me the chance to explore and study what I have missed, so this laptop is the first step to fulfilling my dream."

"Thank you so much for the laptop! It has been incredibly beneficial for my career and has significantly enhanced education especially my coding & programming learning. This laptop has positively changed my daily route, allowing me to perform more tasks efficiently. I'm truly grateful for your support, and a special thanks to the donor for making this possible!"

"The laptop allows me to look and apply for jobs and browse the net. It's so useful and gave me a big push to enhance my situation at all levels. I really can't express my deepest gratitude to your organisation for everything you have done for me and my little son"

"Im so thankful for the laptop, it has changed my life so much i feel like i am part of the world now because of it, so many opportunities, i have access to so many educational sites and job sites as well and since i don't have a tv it has been a big help for my daughters as well because they can watch cartoons and really enjoy it properly so thank you."



# DIGITAL SKILLS

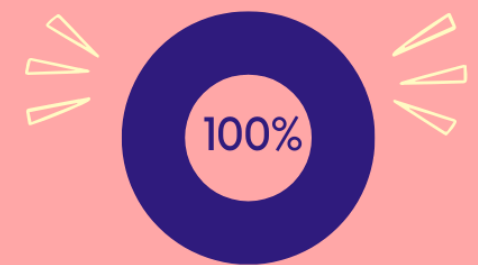
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share

A barrier many face in accessing the digital world and accessing the support that they need is digital illiteracy, an unfamiliarity with how devices and the online world works. After 2 and a half years of contributing to the digital inclusion of refugees through laptop provision, we wanted to make sure we were helping people feel confident in using their new devices.

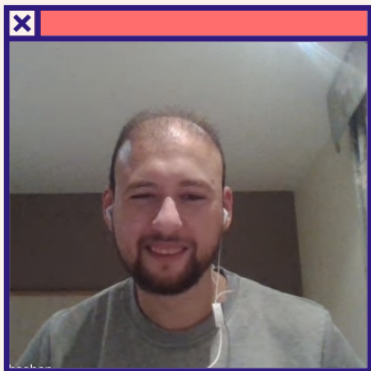
In July 2023 we partnered with Conversation Over Borders, a CIC that offers free online English classes and mental health support, to pilot 1-1 online digital skills classes. Classes followed a 6 week curriculum which included topics such as online safety and configuring laptop settings.



SAID THEY FELT  
MORE CONFIDENT  
AFTER THE CLASSES



SAID THEY FELT  
MORE SOCIALLY  
CONNECTED AFTER  
THE CLASSES



*"In the beginning I wasn't sure whether this course will help me or not as I already have some basis information in the this kind of field, but to my surprise I really enjoyed this course. I had an amazing tutor he was very friendly and nice, also he helped me a lot to improve my English along with improving my digital skills. Digital Skills are important because it helps me to improve my confidence to use technology for work, learning and daily life also many jobs today need digital skills so having digital skills are essential in our life."*

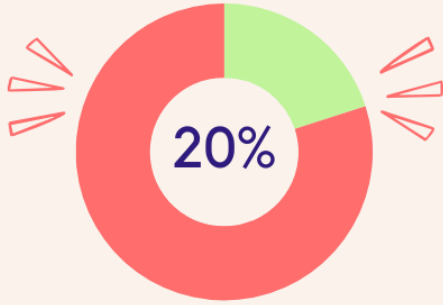
-Adel, Digital Skills Participant

*"Meeting Adel was a genuine joy. His ability and intelligence far exceeded the initial course requirements which, to my fortune, meant that we were able to partake in deep, meaningful, enjoyable conversations. In an increasingly fractured polarised world I believe conversations with people like Adel, full of compassion and openness, are the route forward."*

-Kobi, Digital Skills Volunteer



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

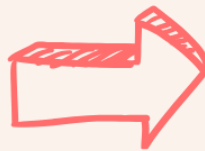


In 2019, a year before Screen Share was born, almost 54 tonnes of e-waste was produced. Only 17.4% of it was recycled correctly ([WHO 2023](#)). The UK is ranked as the second worst country when it comes to e-waste production ([Uswitch 2023](#)).

Through the power of refurbishment and repair, our Digital Access Project converts laptops that were destined to be tech waste into life-changing gifts. We have worked with over 16 environmentally conscious companies and have transformed their disused staff laptops into useful and long-lasting tools. 637 laptops amounts to 1847kg of e-waste saved, adding up to a massive 2048kg of CO<sub>2</sub> saved. Our savings equal a 564km car ride which is just over how far Glasgow is from London!



**637 LAPTOPS**



**1847KG  
E-WASTE  
SAVED**



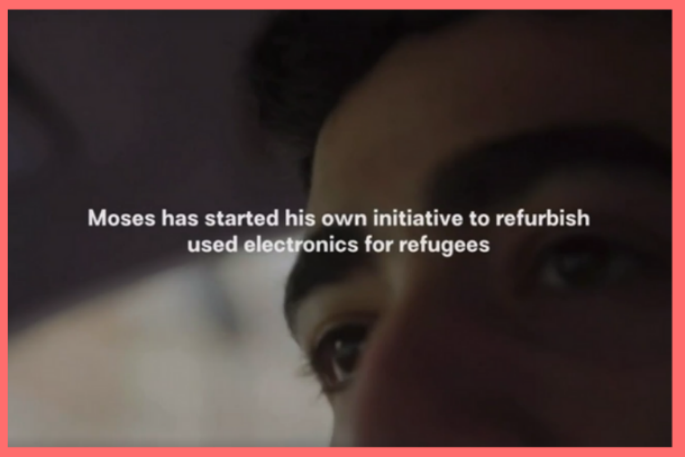
# THE COMMUNITY



Moses catches up with Bjar, a young Kurdish refugee & aspiring visual artist. The T-shirts worn are designed by Bjar!



Dan schleps laptops to the storage. Every week we pick up a batch and send them to tech volunteers



In November 2022 Screen Share featured on BBC1 on 'This is England: From Conflict to Classroom.'



Anoushka, Hamid and Georgina at the Brent Cross Town Community Fund celebration where we won a public vote to receive an extra £2.5k!



Anoushka representing Screen Share at Mitzvah Day!



Ali Ghaderi with an refurbished Screen Share laptop for Babylon Project!

# HOW YOU CAN HELP?

screen  
share

If you're reading this, we need your help. No one has achieved success on their own. We need three things to thrive: laptops, volunteers and money. If you can help with any of those things, please get in touch.

Don't fancy it? That's okay - we like people who are Screen Share-adjacent too. Please follow us on social media - that way if you change your mind or if something comes up, we can connect. You'd be welcome to join any time.

**@SCREENSHAREUK**



## DONATE A DEVICE TODAY!

- ✓ Quick and easy
- ✓ Goes to a new home
- ✓ No to landfill!
- ✓ New lease of life

## HELP FUND THIS INITIATIVE!

- Battery - £75
- Hard drive - £30
- Charger - £25
- RAM - £20

## COME AND JOIN OUR TEAM!

- Techie
- Runner
- Finder
- Comms volunteer

**[WWW.SCREEN-SHARE.CO.UK](http://WWW.SCREEN-SHARE.CO.UK)**



# A HUGE THANK YOU!



A big note of thanks to all of our partners and funders. Without your support none of this would be possible. Thank you for being on this journey with us, we hope to see you in 2024!

